I claim:

1. A method for resupplying reagents inventoried on-board an automatic clinical analyzer by:

averaging the assay demand pattern placed upon the analyzer for assays over a sequence of specifically defined time periods;

prior to the specifically defined time period next following the sequence of specifically defined time periods, compare the averaged assay demand pattern with the reagents inventoried on-board the analyzer, thereby determining which reagents are forecast to be exhausted before the time period next following the sequence of specifically defined time periods; and,

undertaking appropriate measures to ensure an uninterrupted supply of reagents within the analyzer.

2. A method for resupplying standard chemical solutions inventoried on-board an automatic clinical analyzer by:

averaging the calibration and control procedure demand pattern placed upon the analyzer for calibration and control procedures over a sequence of specifically defined time periods;

prior to the specifically defined time period next following the sequence of specifically defined time periods, compare the averaged calibration and control procedure demand pattern with the standard chemical solutions inventoried on-board the analyzer, thereby determining which standard chemical solutions are forecast to be exhausted before the time period next following the sequence of specifically defined time periods; and,

undertaking appropriate measures to ensure an uninterrupted supply of standard chemical solutions within the analyzer.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the appropriate measures include displaying or issuing an alert message to an operator identifying the type of and number of reagents forecast to be exhausted and that need to be resupplied.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the appropriate measures include displaying or issuing an alert message to an LIS or HIS where the analyzer is located identifying the type of and number of reagents forecast to be exhausted and that need to be resupplied.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the appropriate measures include displaying or issuing an alert message to an MIS identifying the type of and number of reagents forecast to be exhausted and that need to be resupplied.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the sequence of specifically defined time periods comprises a number of 24-hour periods.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the specifically defined time period comprises the seven different days in a week.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein analyzing the demand pattern includes tracking reagent and calibration solution consumption along with time and date of consumption of all reagents consumed on a per reagent container, per calibration vial container, per assay, and per calibration basis.